

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended): A process for producing solubilized keratin, which comprises:
hydrolyzing in an alkali solution a keratin raw material having a water content ranging from 20 to 80% by weight,
neutralizing the hydrolyzate liquid containing solubilized keratin, and
extracting a solubilized keratin from the supernatant that has an average molecular weight of 8,000 to 13,000 Da (as determined by a gel filtration method).
2. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the keratin raw material is cleaned with water, an organic solvent and/or a detergent prior to hydrolyzing it.
3. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein an alkali concentration is 0.1 to 0.5 mol/L.
4. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the hydrolyzing occurs for 0.1 to 16 hours at a temperature ranging from 80 to 120°C.
5. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1 comprising neutralizing the keratin raw material with peroxide.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein the keratin raw material ~~[[is]]~~ comprises feathers.

8. (Currently Amended): A solubilized feather keratin having an average molecular weight of 8,000 to 13,000 Da (as determined by a gel filtration method) and manufactured by a process which comprises:

hydrolyzing in an alkali solution a keratin raw material comprising feathers having a water content ranging from 20 to 80% by weight,

neutralizing the hydrolyzate liquid containing solubilized keratin, and

extracting a solubilized keratin from the supernatant

~~the process according to claim 1 using feathers as keratin raw material.~~

9. (Currently Amended): A composition comprising:

[[the]] a solubilized keratin manufactured from feathers by the process according to claim 1 and

at least one other cosmetic ingredient,

wherein said composition is in a form suitable for use as a cosmetic.

10. (Currently Amended): A process for producing solubilized keratin, comprising:
hydrolyzing in an alkali solution a keratin raw material having a water content ranging from 20 to 80% by weight,

removing undissolved matter and recovering a liquid hydrolyzate containing dissolved keratin,

neutralizing the liquid hydrolyzate, and

recovering keratin from the neutralized liquid hydrolyzate; wherein the keratin has an average molecular weight ranging from 8,000 to 13,000 Da (as determined by a gel filtration method).

11. (Previously Presented): The process of claim 10, wherein said keratin raw material comprises feathers.

12. (Previously Presented): The process of claim 10, wherein said alkali solution has an alkali concentration ranging from 0.1 to 0.5 mol/L.

13. (Previously Presented): The process of claim 10, wherein hydrolyzing occurs for 0.1 to 16 hours at a temperature ranging from 80 to 120°C.

14. (Previously Presented): The process of claim 10, comprising neutralizing the hydrolyzed keratin raw material with an acid and/or peroxide.

15. (Previously Presented): The process of claim 10, comprising neutralizing the hydrolyzed keratin raw material with acid.

16. (Previously Presented): The process of claim 10, comprising neutralizing the hydrolyzed keratin raw material with peroxide.

17. (Previously Presented): The process of claim 10, further comprising desalinating the neutralized keratin solution.

18. (Previously Presented): The process of claim 10, wherein the keratin raw material is a recycled or waste feather material.

19. (Currently Amended): A solubilized keratin which is colorless and odorless and which has been produced from feathers by the process of claim 10.

20. (Currently Amended): A process for producing a keratin hydrolysate, which comprises:

providing hydrated feathers, as a keratin raw material, having a hydrous state where the feathers contain 20% to 80% water content, and

hydrolysing the hydrated feathers in an alkali solution to produce a hydrolysate liquid;

wherein said keratin hydrolysate has an average molecular weight ranging from 8,000 to 13,000 Da (as determined by a gel filtration method).

21. (Previously Presented): The process of claim 20, further comprising:
neutralizing the hydrolysate liquid, and
extracting a soluble keratin from the neutralized hydrolysate liquid.

22. (Currently Amended): The process of claim 20, wherein said keratin hydrolysate has an average molecular weight ranging from 8,000 to ~~13,000~~ 9,000 to 12,000 Da (as determined by a gel filtration method).

23. (Previously Presented): The process of claim 20, further comprising producing the hydrated feathers by immersing feathers in water, and then dehydrating the feathers until they reach a hydrous state where the feathers contain 20% to 80% water.

24. (Previously Presented): The process of claim 20, wherein the alkali solution contains 0.1 to 0.8 mol/L of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, calcium hydroxide, or ammonia.

25 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 20, further comprising neutralizing the hydrolysate liquid with acid and/or peroxide.

26 (New): The process of claim 20, further comprising preparing an ester derivative, quaternary ammonium derivative, acylated derivative, or silylated derivative of said keratin hydrolysate.

27 (New): The process of claim 20, wherein said keratin hydrolysate is not chemically modified.

28 (New): The solubilized feather keratin of claim 8, which is prepared as an ester derivative, quaternary ammonium derivative, acylated derivative, or silylated derivative of said the solubilized feather keratin.

29 (New): The solubilized feather keratin of claim 8, which is not chemically modified.